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All these things show the apprentice hand; but, though they mar the book, they do not so detract from its value that it may not be commended to the public for whom it is intended. It will indeed be a welcome addition to public, school, and college libraries, where there is always a demand for well-illustrated books of this kind, and it will probably do good service in awakening an interest in mushrooms. It certainly treats wisely the matter of testing the edibility of mushrooms and no one who follows Mr. HARD'S advice will come to harm. Thus it has a real field of usefulness. But it is not for the mycologist; and, unless "of its kind" is a saving clause, it is by no means what is claimed by the publishers in their circular—"By far the most complete work of its kind ever attempted in this country."—C. R. B.

Trees and woods

The fourth volume of the series on *Trees* by the late H. MARSHALL WARD has recently come from the Cambridge University Press.[2] With a fifth now in press the series will be concluded, for although the author had planned another, it was too inchoate to permit publication. The present volume has been issued under the editorial supervision of PERCY GROOM, who has left the manuscript practically unchanged, but has had the labor of selecting the illustrations, which are both numerous and appropriate.

As the three preceding volumes have treated respectively the buds and twigs, the leaves, and the inflorescences and flowers, this one presents the fruits. After a general discussion of the morphology of fruits (part I, 59 pp.), the second part (94 pp.) gives a key to trees and shrubs, based on characters derived from fruits, and accompanied by figures of most of the species. Like the other parts of the series, this one will doubtless be useful in Great Britain, though it cannot be particularly serviceable in this country. It embodies a good idea, however, which might be applied to the trees of this continent.

The eighth part of SCHNEIDER'S *Handbook of deciduous trees* (the third section of the second volume) has lately issued from the press.[3] Like its predecessors, frequently referred to in this journal, it presents, in the most compact form possible, descriptions of the species of angiospermous trees, native or planted out in central Europe, arranged in the sequence of a dichotomous key, and illustrated freely. It seems a most thorough and practical book, but somewhat disconcerting as to nomenclature. Who of our foresters will give us something as good, but perhaps a little less condensed?

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[2] WARD, H. M., Trees: a handbook of forest botany for the woodlands and the laboratory. Vol. IV, Fruits. Cambridge Biological Series. 12mo. pp. iv+161. *figs. 147*. Cambridge: University Press. 1908. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. $1.50.

[3] SCHNEIDER, C. K., Illustriertes Handbuch der Laubholzkunde. Charakteristik der in Mitteleuropa heimischen und im Freien angepflanzten angiospermen Gehölz-Arten und Formen mit Ausschluss der Bambuseen und Kakteen. Achte Lieferung (dritte Lieferung des zweiten Bandes). Imp. 8vo. pp. 241–366. *figs. 166–248*. Jena: Gustav Fischer. 1909. *M* 4.

The second part of JANSSONIUS' elaborate micrography of the woods of Java[4] has recently come from the press. In the notice of the first part of this work[5] we described the plan, which is here merely extended. The part includes in the concluding section of the first volume (Dicotyledones, Polypetalae, Thalamiflorae) descriptions of 67 species, in addition to the 108 of the first section. The second volume begins the Disciflorae and presents 54 species. The complete work will certainly be a monument of industry and will be serviceable for the microscopic identification of Javanese woods. That the game is worth the candle, we may be permitted to doubt.—C. R. B.

Microscopy of technical products

Now that so much attention is being paid to the purity of foods, drugs, and manufactured products of all kinds, it becomes of the greatest importance to have adequately trained men in municipal, state, and national offices, to whom can be submitted the many questions that are sure to arise as to the adulteration or sophistication of marketed articles. Unfortunately the number of competent persons is far short of the demand, and this state of affairs is sure to continue for some time. In this situation the only recourse is to have accurate handbooks in which may be found detailed descriptions of the characteristics, chemical and microscopic, of all the commoner substances which enter into commerce. Then one who has a reasonable familiarity with microscopic manipulation may be able to determine the more obvious cases of adulteration, and by experience may acquire real expertness.

To put into reach of American laboratories one of the most valuable of foreign works, Dr. A. L. WINTON, chief of the Chicago Food and Drug Laboratory of the Department of Agriculture, with the assistance of Dr. KATE G. BARBER, has translated an edition of HANAUSEK'S *Lehrbuch der technischen Mikroskopie*, which represents the last German edition extensively revised by the author.[6] The translators have also included a considerable amount of new material, and in particular they have incorporated into the key to economic woods—a most valuable feature of the book, permitting one to determine most of the species from a fragment of the wood—the American species of commercial importance. The illustrations have also been improved and augmented.

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[4] JANSSONIUS, H. H., Mikrographie des Holzes der auf Java vorkommenden Baumarten; im Auftrage des Kolonial-Ministeriums unter Leitung von Dr. J. W. MOLL bearbeitet im Anschluss an "Additamenta ad cognitionem florae arboreae javanicae auctoribus S. H. KOORDERS et TH. VALLETON." Zweite Lieferung. 8vo. Vol. I, pp. 369–568. Vol. II, pp. 1–160. *figs. 45–95*. Leiden: E. J. Brill. 1908. *M* 6.

[5] BOT. GAZETTE 43:345. 1907.

[6] HANAUSEK, T. F., The microscopy of technical products. Revised by the author and translated by ANDREW L. WINTON, with the collaboration of KATE G. BARBER. Imp. 8vo. pp. xii+471. *figs. 276*. New York: John Wiley & Sons. 1907. $4.75.